

THE LIONS OF THE LORD

A TALE OF THE OLD WEST

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CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

On the women, too, the quick attack had been almost instantly successful. The first great volume of mad shrieks had quickly died low as if the victims were being smothered; and now could be heard only the single scream of some woman caught in flight,—short, despairing screams, and others that seemed to be cut short,—struggling at their height.

Joel Rae found himself on the line after the first volley, drawn by some dread power he could not resist. Yet one look had been enough. He shut his eyes to the writhing forms, the jets of flame spitting through the fog of smoke, and turned to flee.

Then in an instant—how it had come about he never knew—he was struggling with a man who shouted his name and cursed him—a dark man with blood streaming from a wound in his throat. He defended himself easily, feeling his assailant's strength already waning. Time after time the man called him by name and cursed him, now in low tones, as they lay down, then the Saint whose allotted victim this man had been, having reloaded his pistol, ran up, held it close to his head, fired, and ran back to the line.

He felt the man's grasp of his shoulders relax, and his body grow suddenly limp, as if boneless. He let it down to the ground, looking at last full upon the face. At first glance it told him nothing. Then a faint sense of its familiarity pushed up through many old memories. Sometime, somewhere, he had known the face.

The dying man opened his eyes wide, not seeing, but convulsively, and then he felt himself enlightened by something in their dark color,—something in the line of the brow under the black hair;—a face was brought back to him, the handsome face of the jaunty militia captain at Nauvoo, the man who had helped expel his people, who had patronized them with his airs of protector,—the man who had—

It did not come to him until that instant—this man was Gilmory. In the flash of awful comprehension he dropped, a sickened and nerveless heap, beside the dead man, turning his head on the ground, and feeling for any sign of life at his heart.

Forward there, where the yells of the Indians had all but replaced the screams of frantic women—butchered already perhaps, subjected to be knew not what infamy at the hands of savage or Saint—was the yellow-haired, pink-faced girl he had loved and kept so long imaged in his heart; yet she might have escaped, she might still live—she might even not have been in the party.

He sprang up and found himself facing a white-haired boy, who held a little crying girl by a tight grasp of her arm, and who eyed him aggressively.

"What did you hurt Prudence's father for? He was a good man. Did you shoot him?"

He seized the boy roughly by the shoulder.

"Prudence—Prudence—where is she?"

"Here."

He looked down at the little girl, who still cried. Even in that glance he saw her mother's prettiness, her pink and white daintiness, and the yellow shine of her hair.

"Her mother, then,—quick!"

The boy pointed ahead.

"Up there—she told me to take care of Prudence, and when the Indians came out she made me run back here to look for her." He pointed to the still figure on the ground before them. And then, making a brave effort to keep back the tears:

"It I had a gun I'd shoot some Indians;—I'd shoot you, too—you killed him. When I grow up to be a man, I'll have a gun and come here—"

He had the child in his arms, and called to the boy:

"Come, fast now! Go as near as you can to where you left her."

They ran forward through the gray smoke, stepping over and around bodies as they went. When they reached the first of the women he would have stopped to search, but the boy led him on, pointing. And then, half-way up the line, a little to the right of the road, at the edge of the cedars, his eye caught the glimpse of a great mass of yellow hair on the ground. She seemed to have been only wounded, for, as he looked, she was up on her knees striving to stand.

He ran faster, leaving the boy behind now, but while he was still far off, he saw an Indian, knife in hand, run to her and strike her down. Then before he had divined the intent, the savage had gathered the long hair into his left hand, made a swift circling of the knife with his right,—and the thing was done before his eyes. He screamed in terror as he ran, and now he was near enough to be heard. The Indian at his cry arose and for one long second shook, almost in his face as he came running up, the long, shining, yellow hair with the gory patch at the end. Before his staring eyes, the hair was twisting, writhing, and undulating,—like a golden flame

licking the bronzed arm that held it. And then, as he reached the spot, the Indian, with a long yell of delight and a final flourish of his trophy, ran off to other prizes.

He stood a moment, breathless and faint, looking with fearful eyes down at the little, limp, still figure at his feet. One slender, bare arm was flung out as if she had grasped at the whole big earth in her last agony.

The spell of fear was broken by the boy, who came trotting up. He had given way to his tears now, and was crying loudly from fright. Joel made him take the little girl and sit under a cedar out of sight of the spot.

He was never able to recall the events of that day, or of the months following, in anything like their proper sequence. The effort to do so brought a pain shooting through his head. Up to the moment when the yellow hair had waved in his face, everything had kept a ghastly distinctness. He remembered each instant and each emotion. After that all was dark confusion, with only here and there a detached, inconsequent memory of appalling vividness.

He could remember that he had buried her on the other side of the



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hill where a gnarled cedar grew at the foot of a ledge of sandstone, using a spade that an Indian had brought him from a deserted camp. By her side he had found the scattered contents of the little bundle she had carried,—a small Bible, a locket, a worn gold bracelet, and a picture of herself as he had known her, a half-faded daguerreotype set in a gilt oval, in a square rubber case that shut with a snap. The little limp-backed Bible had lain flung open on the ground in the midst of the other trinkets. He remembered picking these things up and retreating in the blue silk handkerchief, and then he had twice driven away an Indian who, finding no other life, came up to kill the two children huddled at the foot of the cedar.

Some of the men had camped on the spot. Others had gone to Hamlin's ranch, near the Meadows, where the children were taken. He had sent the boy there with them, and he could recall distinctly the struggle he had with the little fellow; for the boy had wished not to be taken from the girl, and had fought valiantly with fists and feet and his sharp little teeth. The little girl with her mother's bundle he had taken to another ranch farther south in the Pine mountains. He told the woman the child was his own, and that she was to be kept until he came again.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Host of Israel Goes Forth to Battle.

He went north in answer to the call for soldiers. He went gladly. It promised activity—and company.

The day he reached Salt Lake City, Joel Rae was made major of militia. The following day, he attended the meeting at the tabernacle. He needed, for reasons he did not fully explain to himself, to receive fresh assurance of Brigham's infallibility, of his touch with the Holy Ghost, of his goodness as well as his might; to be caught once more by the compelling

magnetism of his presence, the flash of his eye, and the inciting tones of his voice. All this he found.

Joel Rae was again under the sway of his old warlike feelings. Brigham had revived his fainting faith. He went out into the noise and hurry of war preparations in a sort of intoxication. Underneath he never ceased to be conscious of the dreadful specter that would not be gone—that stood impassive and immovable as one of the mountains about him, waiting for him to come to it and face it and live his day of reckoning,—the day of his own judgment upon himself. But he drank thirstily of the martial draught and lived the time in a fever of tumultuous drunkenness to the awful truth.

Forces were sent into Echo canyon, the narrow defile between the mountains through which an army would have to pass. On the east side men were put to building stone ramparts as a protection for riflemen. On the west, where the side was sloping, they dug pits for the same purpose. They also built dams to throw large bodies of water along the west side of the canyon so that an army would be forced to the east side; and here at the top of the cliff, great quantities of boulders were placed so that a slight leverage would suffice to hail them down upon the army as it marched below.

When word came that the invaders had crossed the Utah line, Brigham sent forward a copy of his proclamation and a friendly note of warning to the officer in command. In this he directed that officer to retire from the Territory by the same route he had entered it; adding, however, "should you deem this impracticable and prefer to remain until spring in the vicinity of your present position at Black's fork or Green river, you can do so in peace and unmolested on condition that you deposit your arms and ammunition with Lewis Robinson, quartermaster general of the Terri-

at length burned his train and left him. And so the campaign went forward. As the winter came on colder, the scouts brought in moving tales of the enemy's discomfiture. Colonel Alexander of the Federal forces, deciding that the canyons could be defended by the Saints, planned to approach Salt Lake City over a roundabout route to the north. He started in heavy snow, cutting a road through the greasewood and sage brush. Often his men made but three miles a day, and his supply-train was so long that sometimes half of it would be camped for the night before the rear wagons had moved. As there was no cavalry in the force the hosts of Israel harassed them sorely on this march, on one day consecrating 800 head of their oxen and driving them to Salt Lake.

Albert Sidney Johnston, commanding the expedition, had also suffered greatly with his forces. The early snows deprived his stock of forage, and the unusual cold froze many oxen and mules.

Lieut. Col. Cooke of the Second Dragoons, with whom traveled the newly appointed governor, was another to suffer. At Fort Laramie so many of his animals had dropped out that numbers of his men were dismounted, and the ambulances used to carry grain. Night after night they huddled at the base of cliffs in the fearful eddies of the snow, and heard above the blast the piteous cries of their famished and freezing stock. Day after day they pushed against the keen blades of the wind, toiling through frozen clouds and stinging ice blasts. The last 35 miles to Fort Bridger had required 15 days, and at one camp on Black's fork, which they called the "camp of death," 500 animals perished in a night.

Nor did the hardships of the troops end when they had all reached what was to be their winter quarters. Still a hundred and fifteen miles from the City of the Saints, they were poorly housed against the bitter cold, poorly fed, and insufficiently clothed, for the burning of the trains by the Lord's hosts had reduced all supplies.

Reports of this distress were duly carried to Brigham and published to the Saints. Their soldiers had made good their resolve to prevent the Federal army from passing the Wasatch mountains. Aggressive operations ceased for the winter, and the greater part of the militia returned to their homes. A small outpost of 50 men under the command of Major Joel Rae—who had earnestly requested this assignment—was left to guard the narrows of Echo canyon and to keep watch over the enemy during the winter. This officer was now persuaded that the Lord's hand was with them. For the enemy had been wasted away even by the elements from the time he had crossed the forbidden line.

In Salt Lake City that winter, the same opinion prevailed. They were henceforth to be the free and independent State of Deseret.

"Do you want to know," asked Brigham, in the tabernacle, "what is to be done with the enemy now on our borders? As soon as they start to come into our settlements, let sleep depart from their eyes until they sleep in death! Men shall be secreted along the route and shall waste them away in the narrows of the God of Battles. The United States will have to make peace with us. Never again shall we make peace with them."

CHAPTER XVIII.

How the Lion of the Lord Roared Soft.

But with the coming of spring some fever that had burned in the blood of the Saints from high to low was felt to be losing its heat. They had held the Gentile army at bay during the winter—with the winter's help. But spring was now melting the snows. Reports from Washington, moreover, indicated that a perverse generation in the states had declined to accept the decrees of Israel's God without further proofs of their authenticity.

With a view to determining this issue, Congress had voted more money for troops. Three thousand men were to march to the reinforcement of the army of Johnston on Black's fork; forty-five hundred wagons were to transport their supplies; and 50,000 oxen and 4,000 mules were to pull these wagons. War, in short, was to be waged upon this Israel hidden in the chamber of the mountains. To Major Rae, watching on the outskirts of Zion from behind the icy ramparts of Echo canyon, the news was welcome, even enlivening. The more glory there would be in that ultimate triumph which the Lord was about to secure for them.

In Brigham and the other leaders, however, this report induced deep thought. And finally, on a day, they let it be known that there could no longer be any thought of actual war with the armies of the Gentile.

When he heard that the new governor, who had been in the snow with Johnston's army all winter, was to enter Salt Lake City and take his office—a Gentile officer to sit on the throne of Brigham—he felt that the Ark of the Covenant had been thrown down. "Let us not," he implored Brigham in a letter sent him from Echo canyon, "be again dragged into servile obedience to any one less than the Christ of God!"

But Brigham's reply was an order to pass the new governor through Echo canyon. According to the terms of this order he was escorted through at night, in a manner to convince him that he was passing between the lines of a mighty and far-seeing host. Fires were kindled along the heights and the small force attending him was cunningly distributed and duplicated, a few of its numbers going ahead from time to time, halting the rest of the party and demanding the counter-sign.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Missouri Legislature

MAY ADJOURN MARCH 20.

Appropriation Bills Introduced and Legislators Begin on Final Work.

The appropriation bills, which show an aggregate of something like \$5,125,000, were introduced in the house Saturday. When both branches of the assembly have passed upon these bills the legislature will be ready for final adjournment. It will require from fifteen to eighteen days to get these bills in readiness for signature, which would put the sine die adjournment about March 20. The 70-day constitutional limit expires March 12.

Proportionately the appropriations in the aggregate for current biennial period are no larger than the aggregate of the 1905-06 period, though the figures seem to indicate an increase of more than \$1,000,000. Two years ago neither the normal school at Maryville nor the one at Springfield was included in the list of state institutions. This year both are in the budget, each for \$302,000, which alone accounts for \$604,000 of the increase. Increases in salaries foot up something like \$30,000.

For the last biennial period the total revenue of the state was \$8,054,176.26. Of this amount \$2,324,435.39 was apportioned to the public schools, leaving the net revenue of the state for the 1905-06 period \$5,729,740.87. The total estimated revenue of the state for the current biennial period aggregates \$8,277,346.25. This is to come from the following sources: Balance in treasury Jan. 1, 1907, \$618,530.33; estimated receipts for the years 1907-08, \$7,000,000; transfer of war claim fund to the revenue fund, \$475,198.13; transfer of insurance fund, \$4,080; transfer of sinking fund, \$1,437.79. Deducting from this total \$2,323,333.33, which will be apportioned to the schools, leaves the net estimated revenues of the state for the ensuing biennial period \$5,894,012.92. In round numbers, and estimated, the appropriations this year will be something like \$600,000 within the estimated revenues of the state.

HOUSE.

As a mark of respect to the late John M. Dupuy, representative in the house from Taney county, who died suddenly Sunday night, the general assembly adjourned Monday afternoon until 10 o'clock Tuesday. The dead member's desk was draped in mourning, the somberness of the black pall, which also enfolded the chair, being relieved by a modest design in green and flowers. As a special guard to accompany the remains from the undertaking establishment to the train, the speaker chose from the majority Representatives Gannaway, Farris, Hopper Trimble and Clinton, and from the minority Representatives Tubbs and Bruckus. In announcing the escort to accompany the remains to their destination, the speaker stated that it had been selected by the minority, to which the late member belonged, and was taken from among those who were by personal relations his chosen intimates.

The house, whether desiring to befriend the railroad companies or take a swipe at the railroad commissioners, did not develop in the debate, defeated the bill requiring the companies to keep at the disposal of the commissioners a special coach, inspection car and engine, and furnish free transportation therein to the commissioners, their secretary and stenographer. The bill lacked 44 votes of securing enough to pass, and 72 votes would have given it the constitutional majority.

The house Monday passed a bill in which St. Louisans are especially interested, and one which is applicable only to that city. This is the measure which provides for the establishment, maintenance, extension and regulation of museums of art. It authorizes taxation in the sum of one-fifth of one mill on the dollar for that purpose. As originally drawn, its provisions were made to include Kansas City, but the representatives from that place asked that it be omitted.

Speaker Atkinson announced Monday morning that hereafter in calling the order of business he would not ask for the introduction of house bills or joint and concurrent resolutions, and that neither of these could be hereafter offered except by a suspension of the rules or by unanimous consent. Such was the order observed Monday, and the passage of bills was reached soon after the house was convened. These measures were passed:

An effort to make house bill No. 277, the Botsford Excise Commissioner measure, a special order of business for Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, failed in the house, and the bill will have to take its regular course. A bitter fight will be waged on the measure

when it comes up for final passage, and it is very doubtful if enough votes to pass it can be secured. It was contested on the floor of the house when it came up for engrossment last week, but the friends of the bill finally compromised when an amendment, offered by Frank H. Farris, of Crawford, was adopted. Since the compromise the opponents have been busy working against the bill.

Compelling railroad companies to carry passengers on all local freight trains.

Making the office of assistant circuit attorney of St. Louis appointive instead of elective and increasing the salary from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The De Vilbiss bill, which is practically the same as the Gibson bill, fixing the educational standard of all applicants for licenses to practice medicine, passed the house Thursday, and is now ready for Gov. Folk's signature. Doctor Tubbs, who, in discussing the Gibson measure last week, denounced the medical profession as a humbug, offered an amendment to the bill re-enacting the law of 1899. He said that those who were in on the ground floor wanted to exclude others. The Tubbs amendment was lost, and the bill, which provides that all applicants for a license must be graduates of a high school, or pass an equivalent examination, as well as complete a four years' course in a college of medicine, before the state board of health can issue a certificate to practice, was passed.

The house defeated, by a vote of 59 to 66, the Conran bulk sale bill, which required persons contemplating the sale of stocks of goods in stores to post notice with the recorder of deeds of the county ten days before the date of sale.

Exempting witness from prosecution on account of any transaction or matter concerning which he may testify or produce books or papers.

Authorizing county courts to disincorporate towns upon the petition of three-fourths of the legal voters of the town.

SENATE.

During the few minutes that the senate was in session Monday afternoon it was fairly bombarded with petitions asking that the Peck prohibition resolution be submitted to a vote of the people. So far, at least, as the senate is concerned, it is generally believed that the resolution will be adopted when it comes to a vote.

Senator Prendergast introduced a bill Monday afternoon providing for the supervision and regulation of electrical construction in cities of 100,000 inhabitants and over. It provides for the creation of the office of lighting inspector in municipalities of the kind named, whose duties shall be to see that all forms of electrical construction and installation is properly done.

The garnishment law recommended by the Retail Merchants Association of the state met its death in the senate Thursday. It proposed to amend the present law as to give tradespeople a larger per cent of wages subject to garnishment through debts contracted for the necessities of life. Delegations of merchants have been coming to Jefferson City all winter in the interest of this measure, but found many of the lawmakers averse to changing the present statute. The labor union fought the bill from the start. Seemingly, the opposition was too strong to leave any hopes for favorable consideration, and to end the struggle Senator Peck, who introduced the bill in the senate, moved its indefinite postponement. The motion was adopted without dissent.

After many delays, Senator Bradley, of St. Francois, succeeded Thursday in securing the passage of his bill in the senate extending the provisions of the fellow servant law to the lead, coal, zinc and copper mines of the state. This measure was twice sent to a committee, twice engrossed and laid over and postponed perhaps a dozen times. The act makes corporations owning and operating mines liable for damages to employees as the result of negligence or carelessness of co-employees. In a general way it is just such a law as the one that applies to employees of railroad companies. One section renders void any contract that may be entered into between employer and employee that would obviate the full enforcement of the law in the matter of liability for damages.

For more than four hours the senate Thursday afternoon discussed and amended the house anti-lobby bill and then laid the task of completing the measure over, something due entirely to the fact that everybody was worn out with the tortuous debate. Friends of the measure, as it came from the house, were unable to identify the mangled remains of the act. Senator Ely, of Dunklin, who led the fight for the bill, stated in one of his speeches, after an amendment had been adopted, that he considered the bill killed, and would be willing to vote for its indefinite postponement. Later on he modified this by stating that he yet desired to see the measure accorded a decent funeral, and to this end would vote for it.

It required some exceedingly swift work on the part of several farmer senators to secure the passage of the house bill, introduced by Mr. Brassfield, of Putnam, imposing a tax of \$1 a head on male dogs and \$2 on female dogs, the tax to be collected as other taxes, and even under more severe penalties, and constitute a fund for reimbursing farmers whose flocks suffer from raids by dogs. Senators Wornall and Hayman assumed the championship of the bill, and Senators Bradley and Buford bent their energies to defeat it.